

IDOC Recognizes September as National Recovery Month

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 4, 2009) – Over 85% of individuals incarcerated in the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) have a significant history of substance abuse, and the costs such addictions have on families, business, and society are staggering. Accordingly, the IDOC takes the treatment of addicted individuals very seriously, so it is fitting for the agency to recognize and promote September as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month with each IDOC facility designing its own presentation to celebrate the month.

The IDOC currently has many programs in place to help individuals beat their addictions. For instance, the Department has over 1,700 beds designated for Therapeutic Communities (TC). Research has shown that offenders successfully completing the TC program have a 20% recidivism rate, which is much less than the overall IDOC rate of 37.4%. Moreover, the IDOC designates 550 beds in the Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) program for offenders addicted to methamphetamines. Overall, the IDOC serves over 12,000 offenders a year in direct substance abuse services, as well as in many AA/NA and CA meetings, and it could not do so without the assistance of many volunteers.

From September 14-18, 2009, the IDOC, in conjunction with other agencies, will be sponsoring the Indiana Addiction Recovery Month Symposium (IN ARMS) at the Wyndham Hotel Indianapolis. The symposium will be an interagency collaborative training effort focused on services for individuals with substance and gambling addiction to increase probability of individual recovery and decrease probability of individual relapse and incarceration. In that regard, September 17-18 will be designed specifically for IDOC staff. For more information, visit the IN ARMS website at <http://www.inarms.org/>.

“Addiction impacts so many lives in this country, and many of those impacted end up in the criminal justice system in desperate need of treatment. Recognizing this need and providing such treatment can bring many individuals closer to a full recovery and help them better their lives and the lives of those close to them,” said IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss.

About Recovery Month

Recovery Month is an annual observance that takes place during the month of September.

The Recovery Month observance highlights the societal benefits of substance abuse treatment, lauds the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible. Recovery Month highlights the benefits of treatment for not only the affected individual, but for their family, friends, workplace, and society as a whole. Educating the public reduces the stigma associated with addiction and treatment.

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